

Mom, sister urge Salinas child molester suspect to surrender

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From right: Rene Cruz's sister, Zoila Cruz, and mother, Raquel Cruz, urged this afternoon for him to make contact with Thomas Worthington, the attorney of the law firm they retained in Salinas. Salinas police has been looking for Cruz since Jan. 25 on a \$800,000 arrest warrant for child molestation and oral copulation. / Sunita Vijayan/The Salinas Californian

Written by
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Family members of a Salinas man sought in a child molestation case urged Friday for him to surrender and make contact with an attorney they hired.

Attorney Thomas Worthington made the plea on behalf of Rene Cruz's mother, Raquel Cruz, and older sister, Zoila Cruz, the Worthington Law Centre at 215 West Alisal Street in Salinas.

"Raquel and Zoila came here (Thursday) shortly after hearing about what was going on with their son and brother, Rene," Worthington said. "They're very concerned for him, of course, and they learned that the police are looking for him."

Worthington said they are urging Cruz to call the law firm at 831-758-1688, or come to the office.

Salinas police has been looking for Cruz, 39, since Jan. 25 on an \$800,000 arrest warrant along with his girlfriend, Nelida Vega Gaytan, 28, and her daughters, 5 and 9 years old respectively. Detectives also discovered she has a third child, a 5-year-old son.

On Monday, Gaytan, accompanied by her attorney, arrived at the police station with her children, police have said. Gaytan was released and her children were given over to Child Protective Services, they have said.

*Read more in the Saturday edition of The Salinas Californian